



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS RELEASE -

POST ELECTION ANALYSIS BEGINS

RECOUNTS, AUDITS, MEMORY CARD EXAMINATIONS PLANNED TO MAKE SURE EVERY VOTE WAS COUNTED

Hartford: One day after Connecticut's historic general election – the first since lever machines were decertified in July 2007 – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz is announcing that her office will help coordinate three post election procedures to ensure that every vote is counted.

“The new optical scan machines performed well across the state, with only minor glitches reported,” said Bysiewicz. “Connecticut voters should feel confident that every vote was counted. Still, I’m not asking anyone to simply take my word for it: that’s why these post election procedures are so important. We want to shine the light on the electoral process, before and after all votes are cast.”

Recounts: The Secretary of the State’s office will advise local election officials who are conducting mandated recounts. Under state law recounts are required when the margin of victory

is one-half of one percent - or 20 votes or less. Hand recounts must be conducted within five business days after the election and must be done with representatives from each party present.

The partial list of towns conducting recounts include: Newtown, Middlefield, New Britain, Brookfield, Bethlehem, East Haven, Chaplin, North Branford, Washington, Eastford, Trumbull, East Lyme, Southbury, and Norwalk. In the town of Bethlehem the margin of victory in the 1st Selectman's race was just four votes. (575 – 571)

Audits: As part of Connecticut's new audit law, believed to be the toughest in the U.S., Secretary Bysiewicz will hold a public ceremony on Tuesday November 13th in order to publicly and randomly select the polling precincts which will have their election results audited. Under state law, ten-percent of all precincts (approximately 750) used in the election will be subject to an audit. Such audits consist of hand counts of all paper ballots for selected races and then a comparison of those results with the tally from the optical scan machines. Audits are conducted in public with representatives from all parties invited. Results will be analyzed by UCONN, made available to the public, and sent to the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

Memory card analysis and audit: The Secretary of the State's office has formalized an historic partnership with the University of Connecticut's Voting Technology Research Center that will help protect the state's elections from computer hackers, and programming errors. Under the agreement before and after the election, scientists will test a sample of all memory cards used in the optical scan voting machines to ensure that each card is programmed correctly. The pre-election scans will also detect evidence of tampering, and any irregularities that might affect election results. Before the election UCONN tested more than 300 memory cards and a similar number is expected to be analyzed after the election.

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